GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2799
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NUMBER OF TIGERS IN RESERVE FORESTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tigers and tigresses in the Reserve Forests in the country as per the latest Tiger Census; and

(b) the manner in which this is likely to help in re-enforcing the efforts towards tiger protection?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The details are given at Annexure-I.The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(b) The findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in the Geographical Information System domain has provided a knowledge of the status of existing source population of tiger and its habitat, which, interalia, include areas requiring urgent, enhanced protection, establishing inviolate areas for tiger, active management and restorative inputs for securing corridor connectivity across tiger landscapes.The current estimation gives us population extant, its limit and potential for genetic connectivity with other tiger populations.